

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An access monitoring base unit, comprising:
a wireless piconet front end; and
a database to contain at least one entry relating to a
presence of a monitored person within a monitored area.
- 10 2. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,
wherein:
said wireless piconet front end utilizes a BLUETOOTH
protocol.
- 15 3. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,
wherein said at least one entry comprises:
unique person identifying information.
- 20 4. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 3,
wherein said at least one entry further comprises:
time stamp information relating to at least one of an
entrance and an exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.
- 25 5. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,
further comprising:
an automatic dialing unit adapted to automatically call a
particular telephone number when said monitored person either enters or
exits said monitored area.

6. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,
further comprising:

a remote access module adapted to allow remote access to
said database.

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7. A personal wireless piconet identifying device,
comprising:

a wireless piconet front end; and

a unique wearer ID code relating to an identity of a person
10 associated with said personal wireless piconet identifying device.

8. The personal wireless piconet identifying device
according to claim 7, wherein:

15 said wireless piconet front end utilizes a BLUETOOTH
protocol.

9. An access monitoring system, comprising:

a base unit, comprising:

a wireless piconet front end, and

20 a database to contain at least one entry
relating to a presence of a monitored person within a
monitored area; and

at least one personal wireless piconet identifying device,
comprising:

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a wireless piconet front end, and

a unique wearer ID code relating to an identity
of a person associated with said personal wireless
piconet identifying device.

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10. The access monitoring system according to claim 9,
further comprising:

5 a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor to provide
communications between said base unit and said at least one personal
wireless piconet identifying device.

11. A method of monitoring a presence of at least one
person within a monitored area, comprising:

10 establishing a wireless network between a personal wireless
piconet identifying device associated with a particular monitored person
and an access monitoring base unit; and

15 noting a presence or absence of said particular monitored
person within said monitored area based on said established wireless
network.

12. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

20 said wireless network includes a wireless piconet
entrance/exit monitor between said personal wireless piconet identifying
device and said access monitoring base unit.

13. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, further comprising:

25 noting time stamp information relating to an entrance or an
exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.

14. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

30 said established wireless network utilizes a BLUETOOTH
protocol.

15. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

said step of establishing said wireless network establishes said wireless piconet on a temporary basis.

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16. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 15, wherein:

said step of establishing is periodically performed.

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17. Apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area, comprising:

means for establishing a wireless network between a personal wireless piconet identifying device associated with a particular monitored person and an access monitoring base unit; and

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means for noting a presence or absence of said particular monitored person within said monitored area based on said established wireless network.

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18. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein said means for establishing said wireless network further comprises:

a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor between said personal wireless piconet identifying device and said access monitoring base unit.

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19. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for noting time stamp information relating to an entrance or an exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.

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20. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein:

said established wireless network utilizes a BLUETOOTH protocol.

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21. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein:

said means for establishing said wireless network establishes said wireless piconet on a temporary basis.

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22. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 21, wherein:

said means for establishing said wireless network periodically re-establishes said wireless piconet.

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